

April 6, 2006

The Bank of Wal-Mart is a bad idea. It is an enormous power play to boost Wal-Mart's domination of our economy by creating one of the largest financial institutions in the country. It would be just like the "factory towns" of old.

I urge the board of directors to attend this vital hearing and listen to the comments and concerns of the witnesses. This is too critical of a decision to miss.

A Wal-Mart bank would pose a serious threat to drive community banks out of business, like they have done to local grocery stores, drug stores, hardware stores, etc.

A bank owned by the largest corporation in the world would create a dangerous concentration of commercial and financial power.

Wal-Mart has a history of skirting, bending and even breaking the law for the sake of their bottom line. We should not trust them with an institution that is so important to the vitality and stability of our communities.

Wal-Mart is quick to remind critics that another retailer, Target Stores, also holds a banking charter. A Wal-Mart bank would pose risk to the FDIC and American fiscal security due to its sheer size. Target's FY 2006 revenues were \$52 billion, only one-sixth the size of Wal-Mart's. A Wal-Mart ILC would dwarf those managed by any of the other companies that currently hold charters.

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